

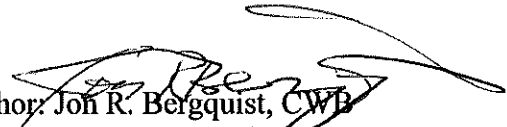
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Title: Northern Waterfowl Zone Season Dates

The Problem:

With a 60 day duck season and a season opening the Saturday nearest September 24 in the Northern Zone, in many years the duck season closes on or about the 4th day of the traditional 9 day deer gun season. In 2012, there was a split in the Northern Zone waterfowl season, but that split occurred from Nov 5 – 9, a time period when many shallow marshes are freezeing up and ducks mover to rivers and lakes. The season reopened on November 10 and continued through the November 25, the deer gun season. Few waterfowl hunters in the Northern Zone hunt ducks during any part of the 9 day deer gun season. By closing the waterfowl season in the Northern Zone at the end of shooting hours on the Friday immediately preceding the opening day of the traditional 9 day deer gun season, reopening the goose seasons on the Monday immediately following the close of the 9 day deer gun season and reopening the duck season on the Thursday following the close of the traditional 9 day deer gun season, we would offer more Northern Zone waterfowl hunters more hunting opportunity and an opportunity for a late season waterfowl hunt.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Polk County on April 8, 2013 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation when we experience a 60 day duck season so that the waterfowl seasons in the Northern Zone are closed at the end of shooting hours on the Friday immediately preceding the traditional 9 day deer gun season and that the duck season reopens for the balance of the 60 days so that the duck season is open for the weekend following the close of that deer gun season and that the goose season reopens on the Monday immediately following the close of that deer gun season.



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